



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

### **SSI and Caretaker Supplement**

Change to Base	FY 04		FY 05	
	TANF	All Funds	TANF	All Funds
Benefits	\$581,100	\$581,100	(\$332,800)	(\$332,800)
Administration	\$506,600	\$506,600	\$506,600	\$506,600

### **Description of Proposal**

- Fully funds the projected costs of SSI state supplemental payments and Caretaker Supplement (CTS) benefits to all eligible recipients and provides funding for the administrative costs of the CTS program.

### **Background**

- The Department provides a cash benefit to individuals who receive federal SSI benefits and a limited number of grandfathered clients who only receive state benefits. To receive an SSI benefit, individuals must be elderly or disabled as well as meet certain income and asset requirements.
- SSI recipients who have dependent children who reside in the same household may also qualify for Caretaker Supplement (CTS) cash payments in the amount of \$250 for the first child and \$150 for each additional child.
- In January 2002, CTS was implemented as a separate program in the state public assistance case management system (CARES). As a result, a portion of CARES administration costs and the Income Maintenance contracts must be allocated to the CTS program under federal cost allocation rules. The CTS related administration costs are funded with federal TANF funds.

### **Rationale for Proposal**

- The re-estimate of benefit costs is based on projections of all eligible beneficiaries in the State Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Supplement and Caretaker Supplement Programs.
- As a result of implementing Caretaker Supplement into the CARES system, a portion of CARES administration and Income Maintenance costs must be allocated to the Caretaker Supplement program under federal cost allocation rules. The administrative funding in the budget will fund the Caretaker Supplement portion of the CARES administration and Income Maintenance contracts.
- Total CARES costs increased only slightly due to the addition of the CTS program. However, under federal cost allocation rules, a portion of the total CARES costs is now allocated to the CTS program instead of other programs, such as MA and Food Stamps, that utilize CARES.
- The automation of CTS into CARES has had several positive impacts including helping families understand CTS and how to apply for it, clarifying the role of county/tribal income maintenance agencies in CTS administration, and consistently and accurately determining CTS eligibility.